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Inside



Couple's dream is in full swing

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**FLAG BEARERS:** Part of the mass protest held by travellers outside The Basildon Centre over their demands for the council to find them a new place to settle

H51L010 nw 03

# JUST FIND US A PLACE TO LIVE

## Travellers' protest at council office backed by a human rights group

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DESPERATE travellers converged on council offices to plead with officials to find them alternative land to live on.

Wielding banners emblazoned with the slogans "Defend human rights Dale Farm" and "Stop bailiffs from hurting our babies", travellers from the illegal site in Crays Hill marched on the Basildon Centre on Monday

morning. Members of the travelling community handed a legal memorandum over to Basildon District Council which has been drawn up by a human rights organisation backing their cause.

The 15-page document, written by the Centre on Housing Rights and Forced Evictions, asks the council for clarification on whether or not the council will provide 62 pitches for travellers by the year 2011 as they were instructed to do so by the Government.

Leticia Osorio, a senior legal officer for the group and a student at Essex University, spoke to the Gazette from Brazil.

"We feel the idea of an eviction is wrong," she said. "We feel the costing is too high and that the council has to provide a certain amount of pitches and they should."

The gipsies also have concerns over the bailiff firm tipped to be awarded the contract to evict the 86 families.

A 26-page dossier has been handed to the

council in a bid to deter them from using Constant & Co, the company behind previous evictions in the area who have always denied any wrong doing.

Dale Farm resident Dolly Sheridan, 56, said: "I've been moved from a site by bailiffs before.

"They pulled out all the gas tubes, broke down the fences and were dragging the caravans out with babies inside.

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**Bungalows  
by the  
bunkers**

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**New cop  
gets tough  
on crime**

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